

*Waste Programs Environmental Justice
Cross-Cutting Issues*

Federal Interagency Cooperation

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Topic Area: Federal Interagency Cooperation

Action Item

Develop pilot projects with other Federal agencies to address environmental justice concerns.

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

In the summer of 1994, EPA requested assistance from the Public Health Service (PHS) to respond to the health concerns of communities living near hazardous waste sites. [Note: More detail on this entry is reported under the Health, Cumulative Risk, Synergistic Effects, and Multiple Pathways topic area.]

Office of Emergency and Remedial Response

The Office of Emergency and Remedial Response (OERR) is designing a pilot program to provide training to minorities and low-income residents in the hazardous waste cleanup field.

OERR is also working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), to develop a list of Superfund sites with low-income or minority housing that may be eligible for HUD Lead Abatement grants.

[Note: More detail on these entries is reported under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) topic area.]

Region 2

Region 2 has identified certain Federal agencies as important resources in addressing environmental justice concerns. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) are targeted for providing regional assistance in identifying health effects and cumulative disproportionate impacts on local populations. Accordingly, CDC and Region 2 have teamed in a pilot program to study the possible relationship between air pollution and asthma in the Catano area of Puerto Rico. The purpose of this study is to identify the prevalence and severity of asthma among school-aged children, to obtain baseline measures, and to develop a framework for future research.

Completed Milestones

6/94	Piloted a survey instrument in a local Puerto Rican school.
11/94	Administered the questionnaire in all area schools.
1/95	Initiated analysis of data.

Contact

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Region 6

Region 6 and the City of New Orleans, Louisiana, developed and organized a pilot project to bring together several Federal agencies, EPA prime contractors, and training vendors and providers. [Note: More detail on this entry is reported under the Contracts, Grants, and Labor topic area.]

Region 7

Region 7, in cooperation with ATSDR, identified two Superfund sites where Region 7 will join in pilot efforts with other agencies to address environmental justice concerns. The health concerns and issues in areas around the Superfund sites will be addressed in partnership with the PHS and Health and Human Services (HHS). The sites are Oronogo-Duenweg, located in Jasper County, Missouri; and Cherokee County, a site in Kansas. On December 20, 1994, the Regional Administrator met with ATSDR, Regional Administrators for PHS and HHS, and local representatives from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose of the meeting was to establish working relationships with these agencies working at the Jasper County and the Cherokee County sites, and to determine the interest in participation by these agencies in an environmental justice forum scheduled for later in fiscal year 1995.

Completed Milestones

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|-------|--|
| 8/94 | Identified sites where ATSDR is addressing health concerns. |
| 12/94 | Identified affected Federal agencies. |
| 12/94 | Drafted correspondence to agencies introducing pilot program and requesting participation. |
| 12/94 | Met with representatives from PHS, HHS, and HUD. |

Contact

Mike Sanderson, (913) 551-7664

Region 10

Region 10's Hazardous Waste Division (HWD) participated in an interagency education and outreach training for the new EPA-Alaska AmeriCorp volunteers. Training was provided by key personnel of Native Alaskan organizations, the Alaska education system, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and EPA. Thirteen of the fifteen trainees were Native Alaskans representing their own villages. The EPA-Alaska AmeriCorps project, which includes at least 15 different locations throughout Alaska, targets volunteer action to identify and resolve solid/hazardous waste and water issues at the local level. Region 10 will provide technical assistance on an as-needed basis.

Completed Milestones

- | | |
|------|-------------------------------|
| 1/95 | Trained AmeriCorp volunteers. |
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Contact

Fran Stefan, (206) 553-6639

Action Item

Increase and improve coordination between Federal agencies to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure coordination on environmental justice issues.

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

The Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) has been working with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to develop health and safety training for communities with environmental justice concerns. [Note: More detail on this entry is reported under Contracts, Grants, and Labor topic area. This entry is also reported in the Outreach, Communications, and Partnerships topic area.]

Office of Underground Storage Tanks

The Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST) signed an interagency agreement (IAG) with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and transferred \$15,000 from the LUST Trust Fund to BIA's Yakima Agency. [Note: More detail on this entry is reported in the Underground Storage Tank (UST) topic area.]

Office of Solid Waste

The Office of Solid Waste (OSW) and ACTION, through an interagency agreement, placed Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) volunteers in Native Alaskan Villages to work on solid waste management issues. [Note: More detail on this entry is reported under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) topic area.]

Region 2

Cooperation among Federal agencies is encouraged in addressing environmental justice concerns in areas where authority and responsibilities overlap. In Region 2, ATSDR began a study of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe to evaluate potential health effects resulting from exposure to polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB). [Note: More detail on this entry is reported under the Health, Cumulative Risk, Synergistic Effects, and Multiple Pathways topic area.]

Region 6

To avoid duplication of effort with other Federal agencies, Region 6 participates in the Region 6 Federal Interagency Cooperation Workgroup. This workgroup meets quarterly to discuss ways to deliver meaningful assistance to Region 6 Tribes and avoid duplication of effort on Indian lands among agencies. The agencies participating in the workgroup include IHS, BIA, and EPA. In addition to the quarterly meetings, technical consultations occur monthly between the IHS, BIA, and Region 6. Region 6

and Headquarters also hosted a conference in January 1995 to promote cooperation and discuss concerns about solid waste. The conference brought together Tribes from Region 6, BIA, IHS, and small municipalities to demonstrate the advantages gained by entering into cooperative agreements, including increasing the populations served and reducing capita costs.

Completed Milestones

1/95 Hosted a conference to promote cooperation between Tribes and municipalities.

Contact

Will Lemmond, (214) 665-6752

In addition, as part of the Superfund Remedial Investigation at the RSR Corporation (West Dallas Lead) site in Dallas, Texas, Region 6 is working closely with the Dallas Housing Authority (DHA) and indirectly with HUD to address lead contamination in a Federally funded housing project (Operable Unit 2). [Note: More detail on this entry is reported under the CERCLA topic area.]

Region 7

Region 7 is committed to working closely with ATSDR to involve the public in health issues at hazardous waste sites. Region 7 and ATSDR have begun meeting to explore ways that they can reach minority and low-income populations to educate them in the ATSDR petitioning process and about health concerns at hazardous waste sites. Cooperation in these activities between ATSDR and Region 7 is ongoing.

Completed Milestones

2/95 Initiated contact with ATSDR to educate and encourage minority and low-income populations in the use of the petition process.

Contact

Alan Wehmeyer, (913) 551-7336

Region 10

Region 10 has initiated a large interagency effort to address minority concerns in rural Alaska. The Region 10 Hazardous Waste Division serves as lead agency for the Federal Field Workgroup (FFW) to identify and solve severe sanitation issues in rural Alaska. The interagency group is composed of representatives from Federal agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the Departments of Commerce, Education, Labor, Transportation, and HUD; Alaska Departments of Community and Regional Affairs, and Environmental Conservation; the Alaska Area Native Health Association; IHS; BIA; University of Alaska; and other concerned agencies. This interagency group has been successful in assisting communities in obtaining adequate sanitation by providing residents with funding to pay salaries for operation and maintenance technicians at the local level. In addition, FFW completed a draft report on Alaskan rural sanitation in March 1995. The report has been submitted to the Office of

Management and Budget (OMB) for final clearance before submission to the U.S. Congress.

The Region 10 Hazardous Waste Division also began consultations with OSWER, ATSDR, and Native Alaskans to evaluate minority environmental health issues in Alaska and the appropriate mechanisms to respond to these needs. Preliminary findings suggest the Alaska Area Native Health Service (AANHS) can provide screening and treatment services for most cases of exposure to hazardous waste contamination. Cooperation with AANHS should prevent duplication of screening and treatment efforts by other agencies.

Completed Milestones

- 1/95 Contacted ATSDR and OSWER.
- 1/95 Conferred with the Indian program and ATSDR.
- 3/95 Submitted a draft report on Alaska rural sanitation to OMB for clearance.

Contacts

Lee Daneker, (206) 553-1380 (Federal Field Workgroup)

Fran Stefan, (206) 553-6639 (Alaska Area Native Health Service)

Action Item

Explore other means of cooperation with other Federal agencies.

Region 9

Region 9 and HHS have agreed to cooperate on providing Federal financial assistance to a community clinic in an area of Tucson, New Mexico, with environmental justice concerns, near the Tucson International Airport Area Superfund site. This joint effort addresses health concerns of people who were exposed to drinking water contaminated by trichloroethylene (TCE) and other contaminants from the site. Region 9 and HHS have held a series of working group meetings with clinic and community representatives to outline an implementation plan. In March 1995, HHS announced the award of a grant of approximately \$300,000 to the clinic. To provide citizens in Region 9 access to information on issues regarding TCE contamination, a TCE Superfund information library was opened in November 1994. Ongoing activities include monthly trips by the EPA project manager to Tucson to attend site meetings and report to the local TCE subcommittee. In addition, EPA plans to conduct tests on the municipal drinking water supply for the south side of Tucson, Arizona.

Completed Milestones

- 11/94 Opened the TCE Superfund information library.
- 3/95 Announced award of the HHS grant at public meeting.

Contact

Craig Cooper, (415) 744-2370

Also, with the support and cooperation of BIA and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Region 9 has agreed to implement a soil sampling project in a wash located within the Tohono o'odham Indian Nation. A meeting is planned for April 1995 to brief the San Xavier District Council on the project. In addition, a soil sampling agreement will be signed in May 1995. Signing of an access agreement is planned for June 1995, allowing the project to begin in July 1995.

Completed Milestones

- 11/94 Met with BIA, EPA, and ADEQ to initiate the project.
- 2/95 Project planning meeting held with BIA, Region 9, and ADEQ.
- 3/95 Project planning meeting held with BIA, Region 9, and ADEQ.

Contact

Craig Cooper, (415) 744-2370

Region 10

Region 10's Water and HWD have jointly funded the Rural Alaska Sanitation Coalition (RASC), which is composed of representatives from Native Alaskan health and social organizations. The RASC discusses key sanitation issues confronting rural Alaska, such as solid waste. The HWD plans to prepare a solid waste interagency workshop for the RASC meeting in April 1995.

Completed Milestones

- 11/94 Funded RASC.

Contact

Fran Stefan, (206) 553-6639

Action Item

Incorporate environmental justice in Federal facilities priority setting and stakeholder involvement.

Region 9

An EPA Region 9 staff member co-chairs and serves as the EPA liaison to the Environmental Clean-up and Restoration Committee of the East Bay Conservation and Reinvestment Commission. Members of this committee include State and Federal regulators, military personnel, community residents, environmentalists, displaced workers, lawyers, bankers, consultants, natural resource trustees, and minority business enterprise representatives. A major effort of the committee during the first two quarters of fiscal year 1995 has been to develop environmental principles of re-use and consensus

on cleanup standards. One of these principles directly addresses environmental justice and others address related issues, such as employment of community members in the clean-up process. Consensus on the principles was reached at the last meeting in February 1995 and will now go to the full commission for approval.

Completed Milestones:

2/95 Reached a consensus on cleanup standards.

Contact

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